probably not accurate, since the written description by Sclater (1886: 130) stresses the purplish tinge of the blue, which is not shown in the plate, and which is one of the chief characters separating true *fulvicervix* from *inca*. The "description" of *T. r. inca* is one of those inverted situations in which the better-known subspecies, common in collections, is the one that requires a name. True *fulvicervix* of Bolivia is known from very few specimens.

Range: Southern Peru; see Zimmer (1943b) for a list of the localities from which "*fulvicervix*" (=*inca*) has been recorded.

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A non-melanic variant Bullfinch

by C. J. O. Harrison

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The British Museum (Natural History) recently received, in a collection of mounted specimens of abnormally coloured birds assembled by the late A. H. Scott and presented by Mrs. Scott, a variant example of the Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, showing non-melanic schizochroism (Harrison 1963). In such a variant, melanin pigments are absent from the plumage but carotenoid and allied pigments remain. In this example, a male, the plumage is mostly white with three or four scattered grey feathers on the mantle and left wing-coverts, but the pink colour is still present on the breast and head. In addition to extending over the breast, throat, and ear-coverts, the pink colour also continues over the crown of the head on the area normally occupied by the black cap. The forehead appears to be white (the specimen is a little faded having been exhibited for a period in daylight). The small red mark on the inner tertial is present and there is a faint pink tinge to the lower mantle and wings. From the evidence of similar variants one may assume that the red pigment is present in these areas in the normal plumage also, but masked by the melanins, the small amounts on parts such as the wings being probably responsible for the slight purplish tint of the normal feathers. Related species in Asia lack the complete black cap and show a greater amount of visible areas of red or orange pigment on the head and it seems likely that species-specific plumage patterns have been evolved in this group by superimposition of eumelanin patterns on areas of plumage previously showing carotenoid colouring, a similar situation being apparent in the African weavers (Harrison 1965).

Horváth (1961) has discussed some plumage abnormalities of the Bullfinch. He found a small number of reddish feathers present on the black crown in many of his variant individuals. He regarded the presence of such feathers as a reversionary character of genetic origin indicating the phylogeny of the species. If, however, the red pigment is present at all times, then the presence of red feathers on the crown may be of no more significance than the presence of odd white feathers which occur at times in individuals of many species. They are more likely to indicate a temporary or permanent failure of a particular feather follicle to produce adequate melanin than to suggest a reversionary aberration arising from a recessive gene and producing phenotypic plumage characters of another related species.

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Weights of the Pennant-winged Nightjar

by P. L. Britton

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Between March 1966 and December 1967, the writer and his wife obtained a total of 184 weights of Pennant-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx vexillarius* in the Balovale District of north-western Zambia. A further six weights obtained by Dr. Robert B. Payne near Solwezi, also in north-western Zambia, in September 1966 are included. In Zambia, nightjars (largely adult male *Macrodipteryx*) are frequently abundant on gravel roads through *Brachystegia* woodland during the period September-March, and all the weights discussed here were obtained from such birds; either dazzled and caught for ringing or recently killed by a vehicle. Since birds were only abundant on roads on light nights with more than three-quarter moon, and at dawn and dusk, a dazzling technique was not very efficient and I have relied heavily on weights from those dead birds that were little damaged. Many of these birds were dissected so that stomach contents could be weighed and gonad activity and visible fat deposits noted. All weights were taken with spring balances; body weights to the nearest 0.5 gm. and weights of stomach contents to the nearest 0.1 gm. Wing lengths were noted in many cases, though these data are largely ignored in this paper (for Zambian measurements of this species see Tree 1967).

Largely as a result of severe petrol rationing, the quantity of data collected is far less than originally hoped, with samples in some cases very small. However, as it is unlikely that any further reasonable number of *Macrodipteryx* weights will be obtained in the near future, the results are worthy of presentation. Most weights are summarized in the Table.

Seasonal weight variation. 175 weights for August-December averaged 68.4 ± 5.0 gm. compared with 15 March weights which averaged 76.1 ± 9.0 gm. A comparison of the means for these two periods indicates that the difference between them is statistically significant. A *t*-test was used ($P < 0.01$). This species is wholly migratory in Zambia, being present only from mid-August to mid-March, and the March birds weighed (on 5th and 6th March)